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# THE CHIN HILLS.

A History of the People, our dealings with them, their Customs and  
Manners, and a Gazetteer of their Country

BY

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**PART III.**  
**GAZETTEER OF VILLAGES.**

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## PART III.—Gazetteer of Villages.

### *Gazetteer of villages in the Northern Chin Hills.*

Tribe.				Villages.	Houses.	Population.
1. Siyin	...	...	...	5	354	1,770
2. Sokte	...	...	...	12	472	2,360
3. Sokte (Nwengals)	...	...	...	14	651	3,255
4. Kanhowa	...	...	...	33	678	3,390
Total				64	2,155	10,776

*Also list of villages tributary to Manipur and lying across the northern boundary of the Chin Hills.*

Tribe.				Villages.
1. Thado or Kuki	...	...	...	11
2. Yo	...	...	...	16
3. Nwitè	...	...	...	9
Total				36

1. Siyin villages.
2. Sokte villages (on the right bank of the Manipur river).
3. Sokte villages (on the right bank of the Manipur river, Nwengal country).
4. Kanhow villages.
5. Thado or Kuki villages tributary to Manipur.
6. Yo villages tributary to Manipur.
7. Nwitè villages tributary to Manipur.

### *The Siyin villages.*

						Houses.
1. Koet	...	...	...	...	...	90
2. Lope	...	...	...	...	...	29
3. Sagyilain	...	...	...	...	...	90
4. Toklaing	...	...	...	...	...	80
5. Vokla	...	...	...	...	...	65
Total						354

## GAZETTEER OF VILLAGES.

Serial No.	Name of village	No of houses	Situation	Communications	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Koset ...	90	West of Fort White and 3 miles distant.	Village is reached in one hour by easy path descending 2,000 feet from ridge above Fort White.	Lyin Vum

*Remarks.*—Village is inhabited by the Twuntak clan of the Siym tribe. The past history of all the Siyin clans is found in the chapter dealing with the history of the Siym. Lyin Vum governs his own village only and has nothing to say to other villages. Village was disarmed in 1893 and 1894. Kuppow, the *ex*-Chief, is in a jail in Burma and his son Kaikam is deported to the Andamans and should never be allowed to return to the hills. The present Chief spent some months in jail in Burma in 1894 for assisting his rebel relatives. The Twuntaks fought stubbornly in 1888-89 and again in 1892-93. They should never be allowed to leave their present village-site. Village was destroyed in 1889 and rebuilt in 1895, it has no stockades and is easily attacked from all sides, except from the west. The notorious Aung Paw lives in this village and knows Burmese. Water is abundant in village and below village and there are several camping-grounds.

Serial No.	Name of village.	No of houses	Situation	Communications.	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
2	Lope ..	29	In plain view from the ridge above Fort White lying to the west and 2,000 feet below.	Village is placed a few hundred feet below the mule-road to old Fort White (present Tok-laing) at 6 miles from Fort White.	Kuplyin.

*Remarks.*—Village is inhabited by the Kimiel family, an offshoot of the Twuntak clan of the Siyin tribe (see chapter on the Siyin tribe). Kuplyin, the Chief, has visited Rangoon. There was no village at Lope when we first occupied the hills, though the site had previously been occupied by the Kimiels. After the rebellion of 1892 the Kimiels were disarmed and allowed to build a separate village so as to weaken the Twuntaks by splitting them into two independent villages. The village is easily approached by following the excellent mule-road from Fort White to within a mile and a half of old Fort White and then dropping down on to the village. Village is not stockaded and is easily attacked from all sides. Excellent camp some 250 yards south-west of village. Water abundant in streams.

Serial No.	Name of village.	No. of houses	Situation.	Communications.	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Sagyilain or Limkai.	90	Twelve and a half miles south-west of Fort White in plain view from ridge. Village lies on the Tang-leng spur of the Nilkorn range	From Fort White to Toklaing along mule-road $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles; continue on it down to Nattan stream in 2 miles, then up the hill to village along old mule-track in 3 miles. Distance $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles	Man Lon

*Remarks*—Village inhabited by the Limkai or Sagyilain clan of Siyins. At our occupation of the hills the Sagyilains occupied two villages; these were both destroyed in 1889 and one was rebuilt in 1890 and the people are collected into this. The Sagyilains were the first Siyin clan to submit in 1890 and the clan was loyal during the rebellion of 1892; consequently only 55 guns were withdrawn from the village, which now possibly possesses 40 guns. Man Lon is Chief of the clan, although his father lives and he has a younger brother, the former is very old and the latter incompetent. Man Lon has visited Rangoon; he has done us most excellent service in capturing rebels and in helping us to disarm the country, and he is therefore treated with more consideration by us than any other Siyin. Of all the thieves in Chinland the Sagyilans are the worst. Sagyilain can be reached in 8 miles from Fort White without mule transport by dropping down on to the spur between Koset and old Tavak and following it till it dips down to the Nattan stream, and thence up the old mule road to Sagyilain. Water-supply at the village plentiful in the Tarmui, also in streamlets. The best camp lies above the village and west of the burial-ground.

Serial No.	Name of village.	No. of houses	Situation	Communications	Name of resident Chief
1	2	3	4	5	6
4	Toklaing or Mwitun	80	Seven and a half miles west of Fort White	From Fort White to old Fort White (Toklaing) by an excellent mule-road	Nokatung

*Remarks*.—Village is inhabited by the Toklaing clan of Siyins. The village was destroyed in 1889 and the site confiscated for a post; the people then settled down in Pomba, Shark, and Yo, all of which were destroyed in the expedition of 1892-93. The people were disarmed and settled down on their original site during the next year and Kamlung, the Chief, was deported to Kindat jail, where he died. Nokatung was then appointed Chief and Kamlung's son was rejected on account of his father's villainy. Nokatung has visited Rangoon. The village is in plain view from the ridge above Fort White; it is not stockaded and is easily attacked. Water is brought into village by leads. Camping-grounds available either above the village on the site of old Fort White near the water-supply or near the village by the Mwitun and Ne Kui streams. Toklaing village is held responsible that the old Fort White cemetery, which is close to the village, is not defaced. Besides some 12 soldiers of the Norfolk and Cheshire Regiments who are buried here, there are the graves of Major Gordon-Cumming, Cheshire Regiment, Major Stevens, 42nd Gurkha Rifles, and Second Lieutenant Mitchell, Norfolk Regiment.

Serial No.	Name of village.	No. of houses.	Situation.	Communications.	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
5	Vokla ...	65	From Fort White 6 miles south-west.	Various paths leading south-west through Old Tavak and Old Nashwin across the stream south of these villages and then over a spur to the village.	Pow Kai.

*Remarks.*—Village inhabited by the Bweman clan of Siyins. People formerly lived in Bweman near Teklaing, but when their village was burnt in 1889 they moved to Vokla and Naripi. In 1893 Naripi was demolished and all Bwemans collected into Vokla. The Chief Linkam was killed in the fight at Tartan in 1889 and the people there elected Pow Kai. The people were disarmed in 1893. Water plentiful at the village in the Haitsik and Samwell streams.

*Sokte Villages (on the left bank of the Manipur river).*

				Houses.
1. Bwin	...	...	...	... 15
2. Chinnwe	...	...	...	... 30
3. Darbon	...	...	...	... 40
4. Dimlo	...	...	...	... 16
5. Dimpi .	...	..	...	... 27
6. Lumin	...	...	...	... 12
7. Molbem	...	...	...	... 80
8. Phailian	...	...	...	.. 6
9. Phunum	...	..	...	... 58
10. Saiyan	...	...	..	... 70
11. Wunkathe	...	...	...	... 108
12. Yanyaul	...	...	...	... 10
Total				.. <hr/> 472

Serial No.	Name of village.	No. of houses.	Situation.	Communications.	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
6	Bwin .	15	Between Darbon and Molbem, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from former and about 3 miles from latter.	(1) Via Sagyilain and Darbon. (2) Via Toklaing and old Pomba.	None.

*Remarks*—The village is a hamlet of Darbon and ruled by the headman of that village, who is subordinate to the Sokte Chief, Dok Taung, of Molbem. Village is disarmed and is not stockaded. Water-supply good and found in two streams on the east of the village.

Serial No.	Name of village	No. of houses.	Situation.	Communications.	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	Chinwe ...	30	Six and a-half miles south-west of Tiddim and quite close to and north of Sai-yan.	A direct path to village leaves the Tiddim-Fort White main road, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Tiddim.	Twel Nin

*Remarks*.—Inhabitants belong to the Sumput family of Soktes. Village is subordinate to the Sokte Chief Dok Taung. The village is supposed to be the birth-place of the original Northern Chins and there are many legends connected with the place. The village was destroyed in 1889, but not in 1892-93 when it was disarmed. Village lies below high ridge and is indefensible. A small stream runs through the village and a good stream is found a little north of village, where the best camping-ground is also found.

Serial No.	Name of village.	No. of houses.	Situation.	Communications.	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
8	Darbon .	40	Lies between Sagyilain and Molbem.	(1) Fort White to Sagyilain and thence to Darbon (2) Fort White to Toklaing, thence through old Pomba to Darbon.	Lyim Tum.

*Remarks*.—Sokte village subordinate to Dok Taung of Molbem. Village lies on a shelf of a cliff, hence its name *Dak* "cliff" and *bón* "ledge." Village is easily seen from the ridge above Fort White lying to the west in line with Sagyilain and Molbem,



and on the same spur of the Tang range. Village disarmed and not stockaded. Water-supply good in Berlorm stream close to village. Village has never been destroyed by us. Lyim Tum is an old man, and has leprosy, and was very useful in 1889 go.

Serial No.	Name of village.	No. of houses.	Situation.	Communications.	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Dimlo ...	16	South of Tid-dim and west of Dimlo post.	Village can be reached in 3 miles from Dimlo post by Chin path. Village is seen lying to the south of the Dimlo-Tid-dim road, about 4 miles from Dimlo.	Lu Yel.

*Remarks.*—The inhabitants belong to the Dim family of Soktes and the family is generally known as Nowlak, and pays tribute to Dok Taung of Molbem. The village was destroyed in 1889 and again in 1892 by us. The people are afflicted with leprosy and are a most filthy lot. In the stream below the village the people boil salt and there are several boiling-places. Village disarmed. Water-supply good in a stream close to the village. In case it is necessary to camp near Dimlo, it is best to camp away from the village in the surrounding cultivations where there is water.

Serial No.	Name of village.	No. of houses	Situation.	Communications.	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Dimpi ...	27	Five miles south of Dimlo post across the khud and in plain view.	Various Chin paths leading from Dimlo village to Dimpi or from post to old Shwimpi, and thence west to Dimpi.	Pow Yel.

*Remarks.*—People are Dims, subordinate to the Sokte Chief Dok Taung. Vumlur founded the village eight generations ago and shortly after this a slave of his, named Nowlak, founded Dimlo. The Dims and Nowlaks are considered to be one family and have many relations living in Lantui in the Nwengal tract, to which village they bolted during 1892-93. Village formerly consisted of 100 houses, but was destroyed in 1889 and in 1892. Village not stockaded. Water-supply small and found in three wells in the village. Village disarmed.

Serial No.	Name of village.	No. of houses.	Situation.	Communications.	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
11	Lumin or Tarkal.	12	South-west of Vokla and 1 mile distant.	From Fort White to Vokla (as explained) and continue along Chin path to Lumin.	Pem Kup.

*Remarks.*—The inhabitants are a mongrel lot and pay tribute to Falam, Molbem, Sagyllain, and Darbon. They are of the same family as the latter village. The people

GAZETTEER OF VILLAGES.

have lived in the Kale valley and can all talk Burmese more or less. The people are inferior in physique to their neighbours and are of no consequence. They trade freely with the plains. Falam has twice destroyed their village, the last time in 1889. The people were used in 1889-90 as "go-betweens" between us and the Siyins. Water-supply good and found in the Lien-lui, just below the village. Village has no guns.

Serial No.	Name of village.	No. of houses.	Situation.	Communications.	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
12	Molbem (Mobingyi)	80	Lies on a spur of Tang, immediately above the Manipur river, is about 4 miles from Sagyilain in a westerly direction.	The mule road to Sagyilain and a mule-track through Darbon to village. Village in plain view from ridge above Fort White.	Dok Taung.

*Remarks.*—For the history of Dok Taung and Molbem village see the chapter dealing with the history of the Sokte tribe. Dok Taung is the lawful Chief of Molbem and of all the villages which were subdued by his great-grandfather Kantum. He has been in jail for some months in 1894. The village-site is an ancient one, though it has twice been burnt, once by the Yahows, and by the people themselves, who made an unprovoked assault on the Political Officer's escort in 1890 and then fired the village and bolted. For the past three years the Chief has lived at Paiyan in the Nwengal tract. He is, however, about to return and should be made to stay at Molbem (the home of his ancestors) for he cannot administer his subordinate villages from the right bank of the Manipur river. Molbem in 1890 consisted of 300 houses divided into two villages; the upper was called Molbem and the lower Saiyan. The village is in plain view from the ridge above Fort White on the same spur of Tang as Sagyilain. Water is found in the village and in streams close by. The best camp is around a large tree on the road from Darbon to Molbem and quite close to the upper village. The village is stockaded, but is easily attacked from all sides, except from the west, as the khud is very steep from the village to the Manipur river. The Soktes divide themselves into a quantity of families, the chief of which is the "Sokte" and after them the "Hweinum," "Nowlak," "Wanor," "Torm," "Dim," "Hatlum," "Sumput," "Chimshun," &c. The village was disarmed in 1893.

Serial No.	Name of village.	No. of houses.	Situation.	Communications.	Name of resident Chief.
1	2	3	4	5	6
13	Phailian ...	6	One mile north of Saiyan on the Tidim-Saiyan road.	From Tidim march to cross roads on Dimio road and take the path which leads close to Saiyan.	Hun Kal.

*Remarks.*—Village in 1889 consisted of 40 houses which were destroyed by the troops, and the people scattered, the majority migrating to Mwelyaul in the Nwengal tract. Village is subordinate to Dok Taung, the Sokte Chief. Was disarmed in 1893. Water-supply good and found in stream on the north of village.